

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 13, 30, 31 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Applicant has amended independent claims 13, 30 and 42 to recite the activation of a drive mechanism within a mobile robot and the rotation of the roller to move the mobile robot. The Applicant submits that the claims now comply with the second paragraph of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Derby in view of Kanayama or Mattaboni. The claims have been amended to recite a roller which is in continuous contact with either a drive ball or a surface and which can rotate about two axes. Derby does not disclose a roller that can rotate about two different axes. The rollers 74, 75, 76 and 76' disclosed in Derby all rotate about a single shaft. Derby does not disclose or suggest to allow the rollers to rotate about a second axis.

The claims recite roller assemblies that can be used in a holonomic platform. The holonomic platform has multiple degrees of freedom. Consequently, the rollers must actively rotate in one direction and passively rotate in another direction when another roller assembly is driving the platform. Derby requires a complex mechanism that is actuated by the users to disengage the non-driving rollers of the assembly. Providing a multiplicity of rollers which must be engaged and disengaged from the drive ball would significantly increase the complexity and cost of a holonomic platform. Derby does not disclose a roller that is in continuous contact with a drive ball or surface, and that can rotate about at least two different axes. Consequently, Derby in combination with Kanayama or Mattaboni does not create a *prime facie* case of obviousness.

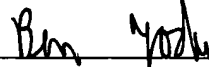
In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-42 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

Dated: October 15, 2004



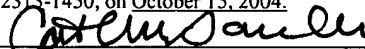
BEN YORKS

Reg. No. 33,609

840 Newport Center Drive
Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660-6324
(949) 760-0991

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 15, 2004.



Catherine M. Sanders

10-15-04

Date

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7 and replaces the original Fig. 7.
In Figure 7, notation of element 90 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

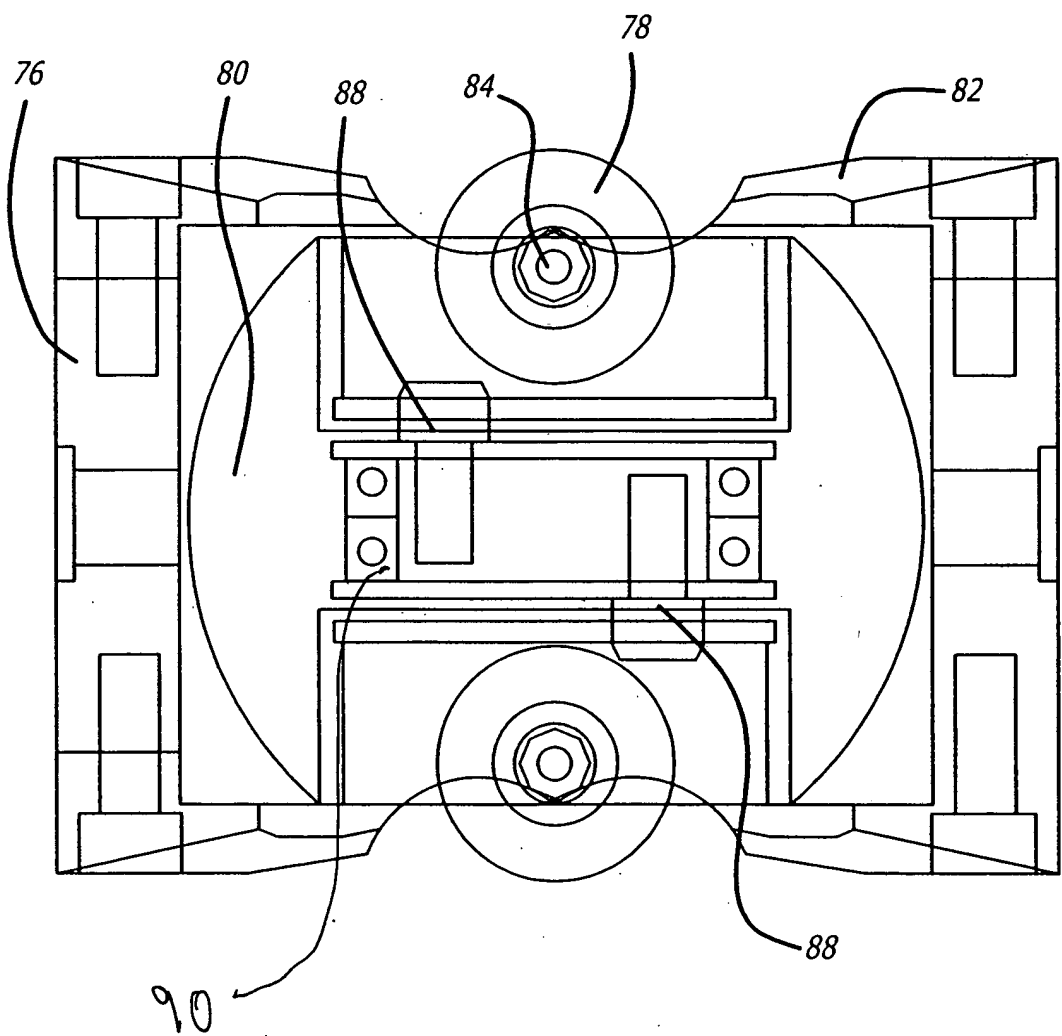


FIG. 7